



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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VOL. XXI
No. 41

NOV. 8, 1999

CAMPAIGN 2000: IT'S FIX OUR SCHOOLS VS. SAVE OUR HOMES AS PROP. 26 LEADS IN NEW SURVEY.

Editor's note: In what promises to be one of the better public policy debates, the pro and anti **Prop. 26** sides are just now gearing up. If approved, this initiative would allow a *simple majority vote* to pass school bond measures at the local level. The current law requires a 2/3rds vote. Here's our update and analysis...

... The new Field Poll shows the YES side leading by a margin of **59%** in favor vs. **36%** opposed, with **5%** having no opinion. This poll was taken Oct. 8-17 among 263 likely voters – so it has a margin of error of 6.3%. While this looks like a very comfortable margin, the last time this issue was on the ballot (Prop. 170 in a November 1993 special election) it lost by a **69.3%** vs. **30.6%** vote. But at that time Prop. 170 didn't have adequate funding. This time it will be a different story. But the key opponent will be the same: the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn....

... As we reported some time ago, the YES on 26 side goes by the name of *Let's Fix Our Schools Cmt.* The key supporters are the educational establishment (led by the powerful CA Teachers Assn.) and hi tech business leader Reed Hastings, who is the co-chair of this group along with CTA VP Barbara Kerr. The key argument for the YES side is that too many school districts have difficulty passing school bond measures with the super majority-2/3rds vote, especially at a time when building new classrooms is absolutely critical...

... The opposition, led by the HJTA, has picked a very emotional name for its committee: *Save Our Homes*. HJTA sources expect many other local taxpayer groups to join up. The opposition is already calling Prop. 26 the Tax Our Homes initiative. The arguments made in '93 still apply: 1) property taxes will skyrocket; 2) the

2/3rds vote is *not* an impossible goal – witness L.A., Fresno, San Diego, S.F., Oakland and San Jose; 3) the 2/3rds vote protects taxpayers in low turnout elections; and 4) there is no accountability in Prop. 26...

... The 2/3rds requirement for local bonds of all types has been around since 1879. The real fear among anti-26 forces is that if Prop. 26 is approved, it will lead to a call for an overall reduction to simple majority for all other types of local bonds: police & fire facilities, new libraries, zoos. Prior to Prop. 13, only about **30%** of all local bonds were approved. But since 1996, **60%** have passed. The HJTA says **97%** of all school bonds will pass if Prop. 26 wins...

... FYI: In Tuesday's elections, at least 3 school districts in So. Calif. failed to get the necessary 2/3rds vote, but the Santa Ana USD and the San Juan Capistrano USD, both in conservative Orange Co., passed bonds. The Primacy Group ran those two O.C. campaigns. Voters in Moraga and Lafayette in No. Calif. and El Monte So. Calif. passed bonds/parcel tax hikes with a 2/3rds vote. Stay tuned...

VETERANS DAY IS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

The Post Office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 11th to observe Veterans Day. In case it slipped your mind, **Calpeek** goes to press and mails the newsletter on Thursdays. We'll still go to press, but will not mail **Calpeek** until Friday, Nov. 12th...

CAMPAIGN '99: WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN GETS S.F. CO. SUP. AMMIANO INTO RUNOFF WITH MAYOR BROWN

Editor's note: As **Calpeek** hit deadline on Wednesday (11/3), more than 90% of S.F.'s precincts had reported and thousands of write-in ballots were also counted. Here's our analysis and we'll update this story with final returns next week...

... As of **Calpeek's** deadline, it will be a Mayor Willie Brown vs. S.F. Co. Sup. Tom Ammiano Dec. 14th run-

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off election, unless absentee and other uncounted ballots push former Mayor Frank Jordan past the county supervisor...

...With most of the precincts counted, Brown had **42.3%**, but at one time during the evening had actually been over 50%. In pre-election surveys, Brown was around **33-37%** - meaning Brown did well with the undecided voters. Brown had a very strong GOTV effort, including a pre-recorded phone message from Pres. Bill Clinton urging voters to support Brown. Brown's raw vote was 60,620...

...Last minute polls showed a surge for Ammiano, who ran a *write-in* campaign in the last 3 weeks. As of 5 p.m., Nov. 3rd, he had 26,768 write-in votes vs. 26,609 votes for Jordan. Former campaign consultant turned real estate investor Clint Reilly was in 4th place with **15%** and out of the running, despite spending more than \$3.2 million. Overall turnout for this primary muni election will be about **43-46%** when all the ballots are counted...

...In a Brown vs. Ammiano runoff, **Calpeek** sources see a scenario similar to the Elihu Harris vs. Audie Bock situation in Oakland earlier this year, when *liberals*, seeing Bock as a *presentable left wing alternative*, deserted Demo Harris and Bock won in a big upset. In other words, Brown's problem (like Harris') comes from the *political left*. Of course, Harris screwed up by not taking his Assembly runoff with Bock seriously. Brown won't make that mistake...

...In the S.F. contest for District Attorney, incumbent DA Terence Hallinan was forced into a runoff with former Asst. DA Bill Fazio, who lost to Hallinan back in '95. Hallinan got **37.9%** vs. **37.7%** for Fazio. Hallinan may have angered some of Brown's backers when he appeared at an Ammiano rally and said, "Hello Mayor Ammiano." Brown has been supportive of Hallinan, but sources suspect relations have *chilled* because of this incident. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY ON SALE.

Calpeek's new Millennium edition of the Directory of Campaign Consultants is now on sale to subscribers for \$25. Non-subscribers have to become subscribers before they can buy the Directory. *Checks only*; no invoicing; and no credit cards...

CAMPAIGN 2000: BALLOT MEASURE NUMBERS.

Editor's note: Here is the list of all the Mar. 7, 2000 ballot measures with their numbers. In addition, there are two referendum now attempting to qualify...

Bonds

- **Prop. 12** - \$2.1 billion Parks, Water & Coastal Bond
- **Prop. 13** - \$1.97 billion Water Bond
- **Prop. 14** - \$350 million Library Bond
- **Prop. 15** - \$220 million Forensic Lab Bond
- **Prop. 16** - \$50 million Vet Home Bond

Legislative Constitutional Amendments

- **Prop. 17** - Lotteries: Charitable Raffles
- **Prop. 1A** - Gambling (Tribal Gaming Compact)
- **Prop. 18** - Murder: Special Circumstances
- **Prop. 19** - Peace Officers
- **Prop. 20** - CA Lottery: Cardenas Textbook Act

Initiatives

- **Prop. 21** - Juvenile Crime Initiative
- **Prop. 22** - Definition of Marriage Initiative
- **Prop. 23** - None of the Above Initiative
- **Prop. 24** - Reapportionment Initiative
- **Prop. 25** - Campaign Reform (Unz-Miller)
- **Prop. 26** - School Bonds - Simple Majority Initiative
- **Prop. 27** - Term Limits Declaration. Congress
- **Prop. 28** - Repeal of Prop. 10 (tobacco surtax)
- **Prop. 29** - Referendum to repeal Wilson Tribal Compact

42nd CD UPDATE: BOTH BACA AND PIROZZI ARE NOW SHORING UP BASE. GOV. DAVIS IN 42ND ON NOV. 11TH.

Editor's note: The Nov. 16th special to fill the unexpired term of the late Congressman George Brown(D-Colton) has both camps attempting to shore up their base vote. And while State Sen. Joe Baca(D-San Bernardino) still remains a favorite, Demos are not only fighting GOP attorney Elia Pirozzi, but *apathy* as well. Here's our update & analysis...

...The 42nd CD is a blue collar Demo district with **52%** Demo registration. But for as far back as **Calpeek** has been in business, Republicans have targeted this CD. Perhaps it was because of Brown, a very liberal Demo holding a CD that was and is much more moderate in its views. Now that Brown is gone, GOPers still seem intent on going all out - despite the fact that Baca fits this CD tighter than OJ's glove...

...Why are the Demos still concerned? *Voter apathy*. Even though Baca and 2nd place finisher Marta Brown (widow of the late congressman) had a combined vote of **63%** vs. only **27%** for Pirozzi, the Demo campaign

team headed by Richie Ross still has to motivate the Demo base – especially those who backed Brown. And among Brown's base are Demo women, who didn't especially care for Baca's stand on guns. That was the issue which made the Demo primary so close. The other part of the base which is so key to Baca are the 20,000 Latino voters in the 42nd CD. Polling shows that **80%** support Baca. The problem for Baca's campaign is getting the Latinos to the polls...

...In terms of bringing the Demo women base back into the fold, **Calpeek** sources say Baca will stress his pro-choice stand on abortion vs. Pirozzi, who is pro-life. Baca was endorsed in the primary by the national Planned Parenthood organization...

...Both campaigns are dumping mail, walking and using phone banks. Sources say Baca's operation is bigger and better funded, thanks to labor, the DCCC and Calif. U.S. House Demos. Baca has also won over a number of Brown supporters, including the Sierra Club, U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer and Demo Assemblyman John Longville, a longtime Brown ally. In the battle over absentee voters, as of 11/1/99 the Demos had a slight lead: 8,085 vs. 7,325 out of 16,633 requests for A/V ballots. We'll run another check next week...

...FYI: The big Demo event for Baca this coming week will be Nov. 11th – Veterans Day – when Calif. Gov. Gray Davis(D) comes to the CD to campaign for Baca. House Demo Leader Dick Gephardt and DCCC Chair Patrick Kennedy have already visited the 42nd CD. Stay tuned...

CALIF. INITIATIVE UPDATE: NEW POLLING DATA.

Editor's note: The Field Poll is out with some new numbers on many of the hot initiatives facing voters in March. The poll was taken Oct. 8-17. Here's a brief update & analysis...

● **Prop. 22** – This is the initiative which **bans same sex marriages** in Calif. The new numbers show YES on Prop. 22 still leading by a margin of **50%** to **41%**, with 9% undecided. But that's down from **57%** in August. And the NO on 22 side has gained 2 pts. So overall, it's a 9 pt. hit, in favor of the NO side...

...In the sub-section data, Republicans are overwhelmingly in favor – **68%** vs. **25%** opposed, while Demos

are opposed: **51%** to **39%** in favor...

● **Prop. 24** – This is the House GOP-sponsored initiative which would take **reapportionment** away from Gov. Gray Davis and the Demo controlled State Legislature. This initiative is dressed up in a reduce legislative salaries overcoat. Only 17% of voters know anything about Prop. 24 – it's still an insider issue. Nevertheless, when read a summary, voters still favor Prop. 24 by a margin of **47%** vs. **29%**, with **24%** having no opinion. This is a drop of 5 pts. for the YES side since August – not a good sign...

...FYI: Roll Call, the DC Capitol Hill newspaper, reports that YES on 24 co-author, U.S. Rep. Bill Thomas of Bakersfield, got nasty with RNC Chair Jim Nicholson, when Nicholson was addressing the GOP Conference. An ugly scene – Thomas isn't *Mr. Nice Guy*...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here's another update on some of the hot U.S. House contests in Calif. next year...

☒ **Generic House Ballot** – Pollster Mervin Field ran a generic ballot test among Calif. voters which resulted in a preference for Demo House candidates over GOP House candidates. The margin was 42% Demo vs. 33% GOP, with 25% offering no opinion...

☒ **48th CD** – It's official. This very safe GOP seat now held by 9-term U.S. Rep. Ron Packard of Ocean-side will be OPEN in 2000. Packard announced Nov. 3rd that he would **not** seek reelection. There's a long list of potential GOP candidates, including former Congressman Bob Dornan of Orange Co. Also on the list is San Diego businessman Darrell Issa, who was asked to run by a number of CA GOP House members, who aren't anxious to have Dornan as the nominee. Also on the long list are State Senators Bill Morrow and John Lewis, as well as Assemblyman Howard Kalogian...

☒ **31st CD** – In her battle to oust incumbent Demo U.S. Rep. Marty Martinez in the Mar. 7th Demo primary, State Sen. Hilda Solis(D-El Monte) has won 22 endorsements from **organized labor**. On her list are such unions as CA State Pipe Trades Council, Hotel Employees, IAMAW #94, IBEW #47, L.A. Co. Professional Peace Officers Assn., State Building Trades

Council; UFW; CA/NV Conf. of Operating Engineers; and Internat'l Union of Police Assns – AFL-CIO...

☒ **6th CD** – Scratch Demo Assemblywoman Kerry Mezzoni as being a potential candidate against Demo U.S. Rep. Lynn Woolsey of Petaluma...

☒ **15th CD** – GOP Assemblyman Jim Cunneen of San Jose says he'll be a candidate for Tom Campbell's job if the GOP congressman decides to run for the U.S. Senate, which seems very likely. Among early Cunneen supporters are Campbell, Cisco Systems CEO John Chambers, former State Sen. Becky Morgan, and former Congressman Ed Zschau. In addition, 19 GOP Calif. House members have endorsed Cunneen, as has U.S. Rep. Tom Davis(R-VA), who heads the NRCC...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.
Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **ATM Fee Ban Wins in S.F.** – With 90% of the S.F. precincts reporting (but with thousands of write-in ballots still uncounted as **Calpeek** hit deadline), Measure F to ban those double-ATM fees was way ahead: 66% YES vs. 34% NO. Despite the apparent win by the YES side, there's already action on the legal front with the CA Bankers Assn. filing a lawsuit 11/3 against both S.F. and the City of Santa Monica, which passed a similar law...

■ **CRP Begins to Build a Warchest** – Sources say that over the past two weeks the CA Republican Party has erased its \$300,000 debt and is now in the black by about \$200,000. That figure will climb considerably once TX Gov. George W. Bush headlines a fundraiser Nov. 19th at the home of GOP contributor David Murdoch. That event should bring in about \$1.5 million for the CRP's *Victory 2000* fund. As one GOPer recently told **Calpeek**, "With the adults in charge, the CRP will now raise a credible warchest for 2000."...

■ **Water Bonds Poll** – If the primary election were held now, Prop. 13, a \$1.97 billion water bond appearing on the Mar. 7th primary ballot would win by a 69% vs. 20% margin, with 11% undecided, according to a new Field Poll...

■ **Washington State Kills Car Tax** – It was known as I-695 and despite the fact that opponents spent \$4-5 million vs. almost nothing for the YES side, I-695 passed by a 58-42 vote. So instead of a car tax, there will be a \$30 registration fee. It means a loss of revenue for the State of \$750 million a year – and right now there's no backfill for local governments, who really get screwed. In terms of Calif., it means that Gov. Gray Davis will keep on reducing the State's VHF fee or perhaps even doing a complete phaseout. Funny thing is that Washington State had a budget surplus and should have started to cut the VLF this year. Calif. started to cut its VLF two years ago. Bottomline: I-695 was a "peasants w/pitchforks" *digital salute* to the GOP, Demo, labor & business establishment...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Nov. 10	Pat Brown Inst. of Public Affairs' 7 th Annual Calif. Public Policy Conference, Wilshire Grand Hotel, L.A.
Nov. 12-14	CA Republican Assembly's Presidential Endorsing Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Ontario.
Nov. 15	Declaration of Candidacy/Nomination papers.
Nov. 16	42 nd CD runoff.
Nov. 30-Dec. 4	Nat'l League of Cities annual meeting, L.A. Convention Center.

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: just got word that Clem Whitaker Jr. died Sept. 27th in S.F. after a battle with cancer. He was 77. His father founded the campaign management firm of Whitaker & Baxter. The father died in 1961 and Clem Jr. carried on until his death. R.I.P...

● Attorney and communications exec. Coby King has opened his own p/a office. He's also Of Counsel to the L.A. law firm of Smith Kaufman LLP and will be working from the SK law office. ☎(213)623-9704...

● Savvy P/A exec. Marie G. Moretti has been appointed to the CA Horse Racing Board...

● Bill Bradley's CA presidential campaign has hired Julie Wong as press secretary and Katie Merrill as CA field director. Wong was U.S. Sen. Boxer's CA press secretary, while Merrill worked for U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher...